

Summit Newsletter

Monday Issue, March 26, 2012

The Passing of Gene Taylor Longtime Clinic Sponsor

As you head up the mountain for your first run of the week, pause at the top and take in the majestic scene below – the snow covered peaks glistening with finely groomed runs and dotted with aspen, fir and pine.

It's the same scene that longtime Clinic sponsor Gene Taylor fell in love with when he first visited Snowmass. Sadly, Gene passed away March 16, 2012. He was 79.

Gene Taylor had a long history of supporting Veterans and this event in particular. In fact, some might argue that the Clinic was made possible because of Gene Taylor.

He opened his first store in Grand Junction in the late 1950's selling fishing and hunting gear. He branched out to renting ski equipment in the 1960's, when skiing was just taking off in Colorado. It was at the store in Grand Junction that Gene met Clinic founder Sandy Trombetta. The two became fast friends.

Their friendship grew when Trombetta started the Winter Sports Clinic in 1987. "Gene was there from day one, providing clothing and equipment for all the Vets," recalls Trombetta. "He worked behind-the-scenes, but his impact was felt by many."

Taylor opened his Snowmass store in 1969. So when the Clinic moved to Snowmass, Taylor did what came naturally – he offered free rentals, repairs and tune-ups for Veterans and steep discounts on clothing and accessories.

These days Taylor's son, Duke, runs the Snowmass store. "Snowmass is a great place to be," he told the Snowmass Sun in a March 21 article. "You've got that beautiful mountain. Geno [Gene Taylor] used to live up there in the '70s and early '80s. He'd grow his sideburns long. A lot of celebrities used to come in to the store, and dad got to know them pretty well. Buddy Hackett. Sydney Poitier," he said.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. today at First United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, Colo. Sandy Trombetta will attend the funeral, to say goodbye to his old friend, but also to say thank you on behalf of the thousands of Veterans positively impacted by Taylor since the start of the Winter Sports Clinic.

So as you ride the "Sheer Bliss" or "Big Burn" lifts to the top of the mountain, be sure to pause at the top and let the majesty of it all sink in. Gene wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Correction

We had a couple of updates for telephone numbers.

If you are scheduling an appointment for a massage in the Ebert Room at the Silvertree Hotel please call (970) 300-8135.

If you are trying to reach Prosthetics Repair please call (970) 300-8133.

Mission Redefined

VA's Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events, formally known as the Office of National Programs and Special Events, has changed its name and mission. The office, which oversees VA's National adaptive programs like the Winter Sports Clinic and Wheelchair Games as well as VA's Paralympic grant program and allowance payments for elite athletes, is refocusing its efforts to encourage Veterans to get involved in their communities and redefine their potential.

The office's new brand – Mission ReDefined – resonates with Veterans who have suffered debilitating injuries while at their physical prime. The idea, according to the office's director, Christopher J. Nowak, is to engage Veterans early in their rehabilitation and give them a renewed sense of purpose and hope for the future. "Adaptive sports have a long history in VA and our objective is to challenge Veterans to redefine their capabilities, set goals, train and compete in their communities," explained Nowak.

VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki had a similar message when he addressed recently-injured Veterans attending the 2011 Summer Sports Clinic at the Admiral Kidd Club in San Diego on Sept. 18. “Take what you learn here, continue to move forward, live an active life—not just this week, but every day hereafter. You may have been injured, but life isn’t over because of that injury,” Shinseki told a packed room.

To this end, the VA National sports office is implementing a number of initiatives in 2012, including the Rehabilitative Adaptive Sport Training Conference, which was held Jan. 24-27, at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, a five-day advanced ski clinic for Veterans at Arapahoe Basin resort in Colorado, April 22-27, and

continued support for community and regional adaptive sporting events.

And the emphasis on sports and activity isn’t limited just to elite athletes. Sports and recreation can benefit Veterans at all ages and abilities, according to Nowak, who encourages Veterans to set goals like giving up the smokes, cleaning up their diet, and getting involved in community sporting programs.

To learn more about VA adaptive sports, visit <http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/>. The site has an adaptive sport club finder searchable by zip code, information on Olympic Opportunity Fund grants for community events, and monthly allowance payments for Veterans who meet eligibility standards.

Semper fi!

All Marines and their guests should report to the Marine Corps party tonight at 1800 inside Venga Venga, located in the Snowmass Village Mall.

“Cowgirl” Peggy Malone and “Senior” D.I. Dan will be there once again to entertain our guests.

The party is a great opportunity to meet fellow Marines and keep the “Oorah!” spirit alive.

Free drinks and appetizers will be provided as long as funds are available, and embroidered vests and jackets will be for sale at the event.

Donations to help cover the costs of the party will be very much appreciated.

For more information, contact John Devine at (516) 698-0588 or by email at jjd1906@aol.com.

Vendor night tonight...dont miss it!

Once you have finished your first day of ski lessons, alternate activities and Rocky Mountain fun come on down to the Vendor Night. This event will be held in the Conference Center Ballroom on Monday, March 26, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn about a variety of programs, agencies and private sector companies. There will be lots of promotional giveaways, maybe a few prizes too.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and many of its related groups will be there. The United States Olympic Committee and Paralympics will be represented. We couldn’t host the Winter Sports Clinic without the support of the Disabled American Veterans, and they will be at Vendor Night, too.

One item you don’t want to miss is the National Park Service; they will be handing out free Federal Issue Land Passes for persons with disabilities. These passes allow free entry, for the pass-holder plus three adults, into any of the 397 National Parks, such as Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon.

Spring Skiing

We love the sunshine and warm temperatures but if you encounter some slushy conditions as you head back down the mountain. The first thing to keep in mind is that your instructor will always try and put you in the best skiing environment for your abilities. If you do run into slush one instructor recommended staying upright and wearing

a snorkel! On the serious side try to stay balanced. Don't panic or be defensive, try to ride through it. You can plan ahead by looking for good snow on the edges of the runs, also look for the shadows but don't ski too close to the trees. No matter what keep talking to your instructor and enjoy the ride.

Goal Ball Clinic, Monday night

Learn how to use your senses during the annual goal ball competition. Goal ball is a team sport that was developed in 1946 for blind athletes to help with the rehabilitation of visually impaired World War II Veterans. Over time, the sport evolved into a competitive game and became a part of the Paralympics during the 1980 Summer Games.

Athletes compete in teams of three, attempting to throw a ball with bells or electronic tones into the opposing team's goal. Sighted players will be blindfolded so that they can play on equal footing with visually impaired players.

This is a great opportunity to make new friends and experience what it's like to be without sight, while enjoying a great competitive sport. Goal!

Come to the conference center ballroom at 7 p.m. Monday night for the game and clinic.

Question Of The Day: What is your mission for the week?

Josue Lopez, Army, San Antonio, TX

"I heard stories about veterans wiping out on the hill, so my mission is not to get killed."

Octavia Mitchell, Army, Chicago, IL

"To reach the summit. To excel higher than I ever have."

Jeff Saddler, Marines, Virginia

"Enjoy myself like last year and to show the new guys around."

Salvador Trujillo, Army, Oregon

"The clinic and snowboarding has brought me back from depression. This is like being in the Army, it got my attitude back."

Carlos Figueroa, Marines and Army, Los Angeles, CA

"To prevail."

Adaptive Kayaking

Adaptive Kayaking is making its first appearance at the Winter Sports Clinic. The sport has come a long way since the early days which featured wide boats, rolls of duct tape, foam, painfully slow set up times and rowing that could have been considered more work than fun. The modern version of the sport offers state of the art technology and a variety of boats that could take you from a relaxing paddle on a pond, to being a bobber on the whitewater rapids and potentially to international competition in sprint boats.

The Adaptive Kayaking activity will be held in the Wildwood pool from Monday, March 26, through Thursday, March 29. The morning sessions will be from 9 to 11 a.m., and the afternoon sessions from 2 to 4 p.m. There will also be a Continuing Education Workshop on Adaptive Kayaking in the Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane on Monday, March 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

You may be asking why should I consider kayaking this week? The number one reason is to simply experience the sport in a controlled environment to see if it is something you want to pursue. There are many reasons to consider it:

What other sport puts all of its participants, whether paralyzed, dealing with some other injury and/or physical limitation or able-bodied, all on the same level?

On the surface of the water we are all equal; there are no doors, no stairs, and no wheelchairs.

What other sport allows you, your spouse, your kids, your friends to realistically participate in the sport, right next to you, with similar levels of ability and function?

The emphasis of the technology is on independence; once you are set up and acquainted with your boat and paddles you can take on the water....by yourself.

You should be dressed like you are going to scuba class; please get your swimming suit on beforehand if at all possible.

Kayaking is just plain fun; make sure you get to experience the sport at the Winter Sports Clinic. The world's outer layer is two-thirds water - use it to your advantage.

Educational Workshops

Throughout the week, several workshops will be offered to help participants and clinicians cope with the challenges Veterans with disabilities experience in everyday life. Classes include a number of different topics, from how to continue leading active and healthy lives to self-defense for everyone. Participants are encouraged to attend one, or all of these insightful workshops, which have been created with your needs in mind.

MONDAY March 26, 2012

- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. ***“Future Environment of Care”***
Bedford Ballroom on Daly Lane (The Medical Room) Presented by Dr. Kenneth Lee
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. ***“Going out on a Limb: The Prosthetics Your Veterans Are Using on the Mountain”***
Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane
Presented by Leif Nelson DDT, ATP, CSCS, Neil Carbone, CP and Chad Kincaid, PT, CP
- 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ***“Adaptive Kayaking”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Kevin Carr & Joe Mornini (Team River Runner)

TUESDAY March 27, 2012

- 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ***“Tai Chi Four More”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Duane Crider, Ph.D. and William Klinger, Ph.D.
- 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ***“Mission: Possible...My Health Choices”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Lynn Novorska, RD, LDN; Sophia Hurley, MSPT; Sue Diamond, RN, MSN

WEDNESDAY March 28, 2012

- 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ***“Teaching Veterans: Veterans Writing”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Anthony Swofford
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. ***“Self Defense for Everyone”*** Max Park Room, Wildwood Hotel Presented by Special Agent Mark Copanzz, United States Secret Service

THURSDAY March 29, 2012

- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. ***“Geocaching: Finding Treasures with a GPS”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Elizabeth Sharp, Ph.D.
- 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ***“Promoting Health and Preventing Disease”*** Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by Sophia Hurley, MSPT; Lynn Novorska, RD, LDN; Sue Diamond RN, MSN
- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. ***“Self Defense for the Visually Impaired”*** Max Park Room, Wildwood Hotel Presented by Special Agent Mark Copanzz, United States Secret Service

Prosthetic Daily

Dear PDP: I saw in your last post that VA can provide adaptive sports equipment. Now that I'm here at the WSC, I am totally motivated to get back in shape! Does VA also provide home exercise equipment like stationary bikes, treadmills, weights and exercise balls? I'm ready for a home gym!

Signed – Suckin' Air in Snowmass

Dear Suckin' Air -

It's great to hear that you're ready to get back in shape! While VA does provide sports and recreation equipment that is adaptive, VA Prosthetics Service does not provide equipment for a home gym. So we can't get you that treadmill you'd like to lose some weight. Under special circumstances, adaptive equipment specifically designed for folks with disability could be considered when the Vet does not have any other options for exercise. Your best bet is to make an appointment with your primary care provider @ your VA facility to review your exercise goals. An excellent resource is the VA MOVE! program; they will have an information booth in the convention center tonight. One idea is to join a local fitness center to access aerobic fitness equipment and weights to get back on track.

Schedule for Monday, March 26

6:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.	Late Registration: Host Room
6:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Host Room: Conference Center
6:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Breakfast: Conference Center Ballroom
8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Snowmobiling: T Lazy 7 Ranch (Loads @ 7:00 a.m. & 9:15 a.m.)
8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Skiing Downhill: Bull Run, Glissade, Rocky Mountain High
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing (Top of the Village) (Lunch Elks BBQ at TOV) (Loads @ 8:20 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.)
9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Sled Hockey: Lewis Ice Arena, Aspen (Loads @ 7:45 a.m.) Kayaking: Pool, Wildwood Lodge
9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Glenwood Springs, Lunch at Elks Lodge, Hot Springs (Loads @ 9:30 a.m.)
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Scuba Diving: Pool, Silver Tree Hotel Rock-Climbing: Conference Center Circle
10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Aspen Trip, Lunch at Elks Lodge, Aspen Mountain Gondola Ride (Loads @ 10:00 a.m.)
11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Lunch: Conference Center Ballroom
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Shooting Sports/Archery: Basalt Trap Club (Loads @ 10:00 a.m.)
12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Skiing Downhill: Buckskin, Powder Horn, Longshot
1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Rock-Climbing: Conference Center Circle
1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Curling: Aspen Ice Rink (Loads @ 12:45 p.m.)
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Scuba Diving: Pool, Silver Tree Hotel Kayaking: Pool, Wildwood Lodge
4:15 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	Ski Instructor Meeting: Eldorado Room, Silver Tree Hotel
4:45 p.m.	Team Leader Meeting: Stone Bridge Inn Council Meeting Room
5:00 p.m.	Coaches Meeting: Max Park Room Wildwood Hotel
5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.	CEU Educational Workshop: “Future Environment of Care” Bedford Ballroom on Daly Lane (The Medical Room) Presented by, Dr. Kenneth Lee
	CEU Educational Workshop: “Going out on a Limb: The Prosthetics Your Veterans Are Using on the Mountain” Aspenwood Meeting Room on Fall Lane Presented by, Leif Nelson DDT, ATP, CSCS, Neil Carbone, CP and Chad Kincaid, PT, CP
	Vendor Night -Conference Center Ballroom, Information Booths and Free Giveaways
7:15 p.m.–9:00 p.m.	Goal Ball: Conference Center Ballroom
7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.	CEU Educational Workshop: “Adaptive Kayaking” Aspenwood Meeting Room, Fall Lane Presented by, Kevin Carr & Joe Mornini (Team River Runner)

Odds and Ends

MASSAGE

Complimentary massages are available by scheduling an appointment. Massage is located in the Elbert room in the Silvertree Hotel. Please call (970) 300-8135 for an appointment. Massages are available beginning today from 1 – 4:00 p.m. and 6 – 9 p.m. until all slots are full.

WHEELCHAIR AND PROSTHETICS REPAIR

Located at the Host Room in the Conference Center.

Hours are: 6:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

4 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

In between these hours this person (Don) can be reached at 970-430-9417. Please do not call after 6 p.m. unless it is an emergency. If you need to contact Prosthetics Repair 970-300-8133

MEDICAL ROOM

For emergencies dial 911

Medical room phone: (970) 923-8330

Location

The medical room is located in the Bedford A conference room, one level below the mall, across the street from the Mountain Chalet Hotel. Stairway access from the mall is next to Christy Sports. Wheelchair access is by elevator at the far end of the mall above the bus terminal.

Transport

Van transport is available from the Silvertree Hotel to the medical room. Find the medical van in the front of the hotel or call the medical room to arrange transportation.

After Hours

Call the medical room for recorded instructions on how to contact the “on call” medical provider. successful, call the hotel operator.

TRANSPORTATION

Event	Load
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Snowmobiling

First Trip	7:00 a.m.
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Second Trip	9:00 a.m.
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Please make sure to load at the correct time for your assigned trip.

Sled Hockey	7:45 a.m.
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Cross Country Skiing

First Trip	8:20 a.m.
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Second Trip	1:00 p.m.
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Buses will run up and down the mountain throughout the day. The 1 p.m. bus will also pick up any participants from the first trip who wish to return to the Conference Center. All remaining participants will be picked up at 3 p.m.

Hot Springs	9:30 a.m.
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Shooting Sports	10:00 a.m.
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Aspen Gondola	10:00 a.m.
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Curling	12:45 p.m.
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